

SENATE, No. 2719

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain mental health professionals working in school districts to refer or help facilitate referral of students to private professional counselors.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. A student assistance coordinator or a school psychologist or
9 other mental health professional working in a school district may
10 refer, or help facilitate the referral of, a student to a private
11 individual licensed to provide professional counseling under Title
12 45 of the Revised Statutes, for mental health assessments and
13 services. After consultation with a student assistance coordinator or
14 a school psychologist or other mental health professional working
15 in the school district, a principal or a school counselor also may
16 refer or help facilitate the referral of a student to a private
17 individual licensed to provide professional counseling, for mental
18 health assessments and services. If a student is not legally
19 permitted to consent on his own to the mental health assessments
20 and services, the student's parent or guardian shall be notified of,
21 and consent to, the referral or the facilitation of a referral prior to
22 the provision of any assessment or service by the licensed private
23 individual.

24 In the case of a referral or a facilitation of a referral pursuant to
25 this section, neither the school district nor the individual referring
26 or facilitating the referral shall bear the cost of the assessments or
27 services provided to the student.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill would permit a student assistance coordinator or a
35 school psychologist or other mental health professional working in
36 a school district to refer, or help facilitate the referral of, a student
37 to a private individual licensed to provide professional counseling,
38 for mental health assessments and services. An individual licensed
39 to provide professional counseling would include, but not be limited
40 to, a psychiatrist, certified social worker, licensed clinical social
41 worker, licensed social worker, licensed marriage and family
42 therapist, certified psychoanalyst, or licensed psychologist. A
43 principal or a school counselor will also be permitted to refer or
44 help facilitate the referral of a student to a private individual
45 licensed to provide professional counseling, after first consulting
46 with the student assistance coordinator or a school psychologist or
47 other mental health professional working in the school district.

1 In the case of a student who is not legally permitted to consent
2 on his own to the assessments and services, the student's parent or
3 guardian will be notified of the referral or the facilitation of the
4 referral, and the parent or guardian will be required to consent prior
5 to the provision of any assessment or service by the licensed private
6 individual.

7 In the case of a referral or the facilitation of a referral of a
8 student to a private individual licensed to provide professional
9 counseling, the bill provides that neither the school district nor the
10 individual making the referral or facilitating the referral will be
11 required to bear the cost of the assessments and services provided to
12 the student.